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SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR INL/PC (INGALLS) NEA/I, EUR/PGI, AND EUR/AGS

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: EXTENSION OF TRAINERS AT JORDAN INTERNATIONAL

POLICE TRAINING CENTER: AUSTRIAN RESPONSE

REF: STATE 72189

This message is sensitive but unclassified.

¶1. (SBU) Political-Economic Counselor and Pol Unit Chief delivered reftel demarche on April 28 to the Bilateral Affairs Director at the Interior Ministry (MoI), Brigadier General Kurt Hager. Hager noted that any foreign deployment, including to the Amman police academy, required a Council of Ministers (Cabinet) decision and a subsequent positive vote in Parliament's Standing Committee (Hauptausschuss). The previous extension of Austria's commitment to the police academy (until the end of calendar year 2005) had occurred in November 2005. The rotation principle is the same for police instructors at the academy in Amman as for other Austrian foreign deployments, Hager explained. The head of the four-person Austrian team, for example, had rotated out after one year.

¶2. (SBU) Hager pointed out that there were EU initiatives underway to provide training in Europe and/or the UAE, including a program that Germany might organize for police managers. Austria would feel an obligation, in the spirit of European solidarity, to contribute to these programs as well, he said. This might pose a barrier to expanding Austria's contingent of four trainers, since qualified personnel were limited in number.

¶3. (SBU) When we asked whether it would help if we also presented our case to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hager reminded us that the impetus for this mission had come from MoI. Further, he added, his Ministry controls both the human and the financial resources for these deployments. In his opinion, opening a second channel to MFA would probably only complicate the issue, delaying an official Austrian response.

Hager said he would refer the matter to the head of the International Affairs Section and the Office for Foreign Deployments in the operational section of the Ministry (Directorate General for Public Security). Hager promised to keep us abreast of his progress in securing the extension. Minimize considered.

Brown